

From left, Gail Boyes, Michelle Isermann and Cinda Chullen rake weeds making the JSC Child Care Center's playground a safer place for the children. Employees of the Engineering Business Management Office volunteered their time during JSC Safety Day in October to make the Child Care Center a safer place to play. Center, Robin Stuart repairs a Bye-bye Buggy at the center. Other activities included sanding and hammering, raking overgrown grass and repairing playground equipment.



Lending a Hand

Business managers trade calculators for shovels, rakes to make child care center safer

Most JSC employees spent their Safety Day in October, roaming the mall looking at the variety of displays and attending safety seminars around the center. But, some employees in the Engineering Business Management Office volunteered their time to make the JSC Child Care Center a safer place for JSC children.

"We were encouraged through numerous safety day training sessions to be creative in planning the activities for JSC's Safety Day held last October," said Gail Boyes of the Engineering BMO. "The day following this training, I noticed a toddler table at the JSC Child Care Center was missing a leg and was being balanced by a chair. That appeared to be a very unsafe condition for our younger JSC family members."

Boyes decided that there might be other potential safety risks at the child care center and asked the facility director, Yolanda Gregory, to gather a list of other areas at the center that may be considered unsafe.

"I also had suggested to the individuals in my office as a part of their activities on Safety Day to consider volunteering an hour or two of their valuable time to provide some physical labor at the child care center in order to make it a safer place for the kids to learn and play," said Boyes. "To my surprise, 17 members of the Engineering BMO showed up at the child care center early October 23, with tools in hand, ready to make the site safer for the kids."

Those eager individuals included Boyes, Kathy Jurica, William Bays, Dave Westfall, Cinda Chullen, Michelle Isermann, Lisa Rea Phillips, Ann

Sullivan, Robin Stuart, Keith Hutto, Charlene Gamar, Caroline Root, Krystine Bui, Jeff Johnson, Stephanie Hunter, Wendy Boudreaux and Wayman Randolph.

Some of the helpful activities performed by the Engineering BMO included sanding and hammering nails on handrails and play structures in both the toddler and preschool playgrounds; replacing a missing handrail; fixing the brakes and awning on the six-seater toddler bye-bye buggy; raking up overgrown grass and small toys that were buried in the sandy play areas; repairing a rotted slide for the pre-toddler playground; fixing a baby bed leg; repairing wood on the front of the G-Node; and moving a piece of space hardware into the pre-toddler area to be used as a shade structure.

"I wish we had more time, or could have worked on the weekend when the kids were gone to do some fixing up inside the child care center," Hunter said.

"This probably was one of the most worthwhile and productive efforts done on Safety Day. We should make it an annual event and get other offices involved. I felt like I was really giving some value back to JSC on Safety Day," Chullen said.

After several hours, the Safety Day list generated by the child care director was complete.

"This group really worked hard and accomplished a majority of the tasks on the child care center's 'to-do' lists," said

Tim Boyes, president of the child care board of directors. "Their hard work has made our facility a safer place for the children and the staff to learn and play."

Child care center parents also got involved during the child care center fall work day held Oct. 19. Parents, Vince Berend, Lynn Buquo, Sharyl Butler and Harold Moffitt redistributed sand and pulled grass under the climbing structures, repainted doors and repaired water play tables.

All the hard effort during Safety Day

and parents work day resulted in an enjoyable Child Care Center Fall Festival held Oct. 31.

The Fall Festival is an annual event hosted by parents and teachers for the child care center membership. This year's hosts and contributors to the event

included parents Alison Rickerl, Hester Yim, Helen Neighbors, Chip Shepherd, Sheryl Butler, Susan Morgan, Liz Pawlik, Dena Haynes, Karen Frank, Mary Cerimele, Jill Hemmingson, Malise Fletcher, Caryn Salkowski, Jackie Geyer, Gail Boyes, and Charlene Gamar, and the child care center Director Yolanda Gregory and teachers, Tina Bush, Lety Smallwood, El Borinsky, Queen Okoloise, Vera Tosto, Jackie Henderson, Branka Prusac, Jeanne Silver and Vicci Bennett.

Their efforts included setting up a haunted house and providing many ghostly games, snacks and activities. The festival was attended and enjoyed by many of the child care center's members and fans, including JSC Director

George Abbey, JSC Associate Director for Management Susan Garman, Director of Human Resources Harvey Hartman, Manager of Programs and Policy Robert Hall and the Space Family Education board of directors, Tim Boyes, Vincent Berend, Karen Frank, Gretchen Thomas and Sharon Licht.

Plaques were presented by SFEI to Abbey, Garman, Hartman and Hall prior to the Christmas holidays, expressing SFEI's thanks for their participation at the festival and their continued support to the child care center.

The JSC Child Care Center is managed by the Space Family Education, Inc., a non-profit corporation established over five years ago for this purpose. The center's goal is to provide quality child care for on-site JSC employees and contractors.

Membership of the Space Family Education, Inc., consists of parents and interested individuals. A board of directors is elected every two years by the membership and is responsible for the hiring of a director, who provides day-to-day management. The present board consists of Tim Boyes, president, Vincent Berend, vice president, Gretchen Thomas, secretary, Sharon Licht, treasurer, and Karen Frank, policies and procedures. The facility director is Yolanda Gregory. The corporation was formed to provide parents and interested individuals at JSC with control and operation of the facility and to relieve the U. S. Government and NASA of any liability associated with child care. The primary source of financial support is through tuition fees paid by the parents and through community support, including fundraising activities handled by volunteers. □



Engineering Business Management Office volunteers are presented with a Golden Hammer Award at an all-hands meeting for their efforts at the JSC Child Care Center. Front row from left are, Gail Boyes, Caroline Root, Robin Stuart, Michelle Isermann, Krystine Bui, Charlene Gamar and Cinda Chullen. Back row from left are, Ann Sullivan, Kathy Jurica, Keith Hutto, Jeff Johnson, Lisa Rea Phillips, Wendy Boudreaux and Stephanie Hunter. Volunteers Bill Bays, Dave Westfall and Wayman Randolph were unable to attend the special presentation.



Char Gamar grinds an infant slide to smooth the wood and prevent splinters as Dave Westfall looks on.



From left, Human Resources Director Harvey Hartman, JSC Child Care Director Yolanda Gregory, JSC Associate Director for Management Sue Garman, parent Frank Wood, JSC Director George Abbey and board members Tim Boyes, Vince Berend and Gretchen Thomas take time out during a safety inspection to celebrate the JSC Child Care Center's annual fall festival.